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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Turkey's EU membership will benefit all - Cheney - Hurriyet  
Let's close the genocide chapter - Erdogan to Armenians -  
Hurriyet  
Erdogan wants Powell as Cyprus mediator - Sabah  
Erdogan to hold surprise meeting with Schwarzenegger -  
Hurriyet  
Athens rejects new Cyprus mediator proposal - Hurriyet  
Greeks say 'No' to Turkish proposals on Cyprus - Milliyet  
Necirvan Barzani threatens force if Turks remain in Iraq -  
Milliyet  
Zana supports Turkey's EU bid from prison - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Jewish community rewards Erdogan - Radikal  
Surprise name for Cyprus: Holbrooke - Cumhuriyet  
Turkey to take initiative on Armenia policy - Zaman  
Erdogan: Turkey, US must expand strategic cooperation - Yeni  
Safak  
Kurdish officials step up tension with Turkey - Cumhuriyet  
Athens gives 'red light' for Turkey's Cyprus efforts -  
Radikal  
Bremer believes geographical federation suits Iraq best -  
Zaman  
Turkmen demand autonomy - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Erdogan in US: Prime Minister Erdogan will meet President Bush at the Oval Office on Wednesday. Cyprus and Iraq will be among the issues discussed, and the Turks are expected to urge expanded economic and commercial cooperation. US hopes for a solution in Cyprus before May have increased considerably after the recent Turkish initiative. Washington will make clear that it wants Turkey as part of the European family. The Americans will explain to Erdogan their preference for a federation in Iraq based on geographic boundaries, and reaffirm that Kirkuk must belong to all ethnic groups living there, "Hurriyet" reports. President Bush will reassure Erdogan about US determination to remove the PKK threat in Northern Iraq. The US will also reiterate support for Turkey in its dealings with international financial institutions. The US wants enhanced cooperation with Turkey regarding the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Middle East, and will urge Turks to normalize relations with Armenia. Addressing a Turkish audience in New York on Tuesday, Erdogan issued an historic call to Armenia: 'We want to remove from the history books all allegations of genocide and other issues of enmity,' he said, and called the Armenians to do the same. 'Both sides must look at the future now,' Erdogan noted. Erdogan also signaled that Turkey's border with Armenia might be opened. The Turkish prime minister also met with Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios and members of the Greek lobby in New York on Tuesday. Erdogan complained to the Archbishop about 'provocative moves' by the Orthodox Church in Southern Cyprus in an effort to block the Turkish initiative for a peaceful solution. Demetrios told Erdogan that Greeks living in the US support a solution in Cyprus. The Archbishop urged Erdogan to allow the re-opening of Halki (Heybeliada) Seminary in Istanbul. Erdogan said the Halki Seminary controversy was related to the situation of the

Turkish minority living in Western Thrace, and added that the issue would be taken up in line with the principle of reciprocity.

Cyprus: Foreign Minister Gul hinted that Turkish Cypriots could hold a referendum on the Annan Plan for Cyprus even if no compromise is worked out in negotiations. 'American support is necessary for a solution in Cyprus,' Gul said before leaving for the US on Tuesday. Gul added that both Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots have said that they could accept the Annan Plan as a point of reference. Greek Foreign Minister Papandreou rejected Ankara's proposal for the appointment of a new Cyprus mediator by the UN. 'Alvaro de Soto is fully knowledgeable about the details of the Cyprus problem, and it might take months for a new go-between to become familiar with the issue,' Papandreou said. TRNC 'Prime Minister' Mehmet Ali Talat blamed the Greeks and Greek Cypriots for attempting block a settlement before May. Meanwhile, "Cumhuriyet" reports about Richard Holbrooke attending a dinner hosted by Turkish businessman Ahmet Ertegun for Erdogan in New York. "Cumhuriyet" believes that Holbrooke could be assigned as the mediator for Cyprus. "Sabah," however, continues to report that Erdogan will urge President Bush to appointing Secretary Powell to that position.

Turkmen might demand autonomy: Turkmen in northern Iraq say they will claim 'autonomy rights' if a Kurdish federation is established in the region, according to "Yeni Safak." The Turkmen want to establish their autonomous region close to the Turkish border, with parts of Mosul and Kirkuk included.

Jailed Kurdish MP supports Turkey in EU: Former Kurdish member of the Turkish parliament, DEP (Democracy Party) deputy Leyla Zana wrote a letter from jail to Pat Cox, Chairman of the European Parliament, urging for support for Turkey in its effort to get a date for EU membership negotiations. Zana noted that such a gesture would 'break the resistance' of anti-EU circles in Turkey. 'For me, it's better to stay in jail in a Turkey which has started accession talks with the EU than to be free in a Turkey waiting before doors that have been locked by the EU' Zana said. Zana argued that if the EU denies Ankara a date for accession talks, chaos may erupt in Turkey and the region.

Turks take headscarf complaints to ECHR: The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled against Turkey in 76 human rights cases last year. There are currently 190 appeals pending against Turkey regarding the official ban on headscarves, including a case filed by the wife of Turkish FM Abdullah Gul. In 2003, Turkey ranked fifth in the list of countries with the highest record of human rights violations.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: US-Turkey Relations/Cyprus

"White House Meeting Might Bring Breakthrough on Cyprus"  
Murat Yetkin expects developments on the Cyprus issue in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (1/28): "Recent steps taken by Turkey have created a very positive and encouraging atmosphere about breaking the deadlock on the Cyprus issue. Both Greece and the Greek Cypriots are annoyed by the Turkish initiatives, which ended their hopes to enter the EU on May 1 without coming under pressure to resolve the Cyprus dispute. Prime Minister Erdogan hopes the US administration will recognize the genuine goodwill on the Turkish side to solve the long-standing Cyprus issue this time. Therefore, his meeting with President Bush at the White House has become even more important, because Erdogan believes that a settlement process can actually begin with the position to be outlined by Bush. . Breaking the deadlock on Cyprus and beginning the process for a lasting solution will certainly boost hopes for Turkey's integration with the Western world. PM Erdogan might be the leader to take Turkey to the EU if he can ensure enough support for the Cyprus settlement process from the White House and the United Nations."

"Turkey Wants Powell as Mediator for Cyprus"  
Asli Aydintasbas observed in the mass appeal Sabah (1/28): "During the meeting at the White House, PM Erdogan is not only going to ask the US to support Turkey's Cyprus settlement initiative, but also to agree to name Secretary Powell as a mediator for Cyprus. The Bush administration, however, believes that Powell might not be the best candidate due to his busy schedule. Washington is also unwilling to be involved in the Cyprus issue so directly. The White House instead is planning to propose a high-level American name for job of Cyprus mediation. . The White House meeting will also be the venue for Turkish diplomacy to try

to convince Bush administration about Turkey's sincerity for finding a settlement to the Cyprus issue this time."

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